श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : कुछ नाम ले लीजिए ।

श्री एस. बी. चव्हाण : लेकिन जो इम्पारटेंट किस्म के नाम हैं उनमें हिजबुल मुजाहिदीन है, अल उमर है, जे०के०एल०एफ० है । अभी 5–6 मोटे मोटे हमारे दिमाग में हैं वे मैं आपके सामने रख रहा हूं ।

श्वेत पत्र निकालने का सवाल अभी गवर्नमेंट के सामने नहीं है ।

Environmental problems posed by tanneries in Tamil Nadu

*302. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that tanneries in Tamil Nadu are causing environmental problems in that region;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what measures Government have taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The major tannery centres in Tamil Nadu are Ranipet, Ambur, Vaniyambadi and Pernampet in North Arcot District, Pallavaram in Changalpet District, Erode in Periyar District, Dindigul in Anna District, Tiruchireppalli in Tiruchirpelli District and Madras. About 95 per cent of these are in the small scale sector. The structure of the industry, inadequate space to set up effluent treatment plants, lack of technical, managerial & financial capacities of the tanneries and also lack of access to sound technologies are among the factors that are responsible for environmental problems caused by these units;

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Regarding environmental problems posed by tanneries in Tamil Nadu.

The Government have already taken a number of steps for control of pollution from tanneries. The salient steps are as under:—

(i) Effluent standards for tanneries have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

(ii) Environment guidelines have been evolved for sitting and operation of industries including tanneries;

(iii) Tanneries and clusters of tanneries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards to limit the discharge of effluents within the stipulated standards;

(iv) The Central Government, in consultation with the State Governments, have issued a notification for industries, including tanneries to meet the effluent standards;

(v) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment in tanneries and also for the shifting of tanneries from congested areas;

(vi) Network of ambient air quality and ambient water qualty monitoring stations have been set up to measure pollution loads from industrial outfalls, including tanneries;

(vii) The State and the Central Government have provided subsidies to assist tanneries to set up common effluent treatment plants. So far the Central Government has given 4.94 crores to common effluent treatment plants at 8 locations in Tamil Nadu;

(viii) Under the World Bank aided project, initiated in November, 1991, the State and the Central Government would provide subsidies and loan to assist clusters

tanneries, for the setting up of common effluent treatment plants. Individual industrial units, including tanneries, in the medium and large scale sectors are also eligible to avail of loans under this scheme to provide pollution abatement systems;

(ix) Chrome recovery plants, where this heavy metal is recovered from the effluents of chrome-tanning and recycled for further tanning purposes and, these Reducing pollution from effluents and also rendering the cost of tanning cheaper has been found to be successful in Kanpur under the Ganga Action Plan. Action has been initiated to encourage the establishment of such units elsewhere.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister on improving the environment of the country, not only for us but for the coming generations. But small tanneries dump their taminated effluents everywhere agricultural lands, lakes, rivers, etc. And the Government could do nothing so far. In this connection, my first question is this. Does the Government have any scheme to help the small tannery units to install pollution control equipment which are otherwise very expensive?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, small-scale tannery units represent perhaps 90 per cent of the tannery units in the country. Most of the tannery units, in other words, are in the small-scale sector. The Central Government has a scheme for providing subsidy to clusters of small tannery units. Most of these small tannery units are not only isolated but also are in clusters. There is a scheme to provide subsidy and loans to the small-scale units which are located in clusters. Under this scheme, 20 per cent is provided as subsidy by the Central Government and 20 per cent is required to be provided, as subsidy by the State Government and 20 per cent promoter's contribution. The remaining 40 per cent is taken as loan from banks or financial institutions at concessional rates of interest under a World Bank scheme,

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Mr. Chairman, it is very sad, but the fact remains that many young men who are working in these tanneries are not getting married because girls' parents consider that if the prospective brides are married to those people who are working in these tanneries, they will not be able to produce children and that is why the problem has become all the more serious. In this connection, part (a) of my second supplementary is, what are the funds released by the Central Government to Tamil Nadu for setting up common effluent treatment plants, particularly for the clusters of tanneries? What is the total disbursement throughout the country under this scheme? There is also a programme of the Government to give incentives for shifting tanneries. I would like to know if any tannery has been shifted at all. Part (c) of my question is whether the Government of India... (*Interruptions*).

श्री सभापति : यह आपका पहला सप्लीमेंट्री है। दूसरे में पूछ लेना जो पूछना हो। दूसरा हो गया बस।

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, it is true that tanneries have a major role in pollution. Untreated effluents from tanneries, when disposed into water, deplete the dissolved oxygen and charme exuents are highly twice. It has a very major effect on human health. The Government of India has so far released Rs. 5,29,00,000/- as grants to the Government of Tamil Nadu for ten common effluent treatment plants. Of these, eight are for tannery clusters who have received a grant of Rs. 994 crores. A sum of Rs. 972.53 lakhs has been disbursed throughout the country for setting up common effluent treatment plants in clusters of the small-

scale sector. I do not have specific information about any of the units which are shifted out. But there is a fiscal incentive scheme, a scheme of tax incentives, for moving out and there are facilities provided for this by the Central Government. I will give the hon. Member the details of those units which had shifted out.

SHRI T. A. MOHAMMED SAQHY: Sir, there are a number of tanneries situated on the banks of the river Palar in North Arcot Ambedkar District. There are thousands of employees working in them. They provide jobs for so many thousands of people. But at the same time, they pollute the drinking water of the river Palar. The population there uses the groundwater from the Palar riverbed for drinking purposes. That is being polluted now. No doubt there are schemes provided by the Central Government to have common effluent treatment plants and other things. We have seen a number of inaugural functions. But nothing has been so far completed. The Minister has said that he has released funds of Rs. 5,29,00,000/- as incentives and subsidies. Out of this money how much has been utilised for... for constructing the common effluent treatment plants. How many of them have been completed so far because the Government has been talking about the same for the last so many years? How many effluent treatment plants have been completed since then?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, these funds which are released, are released in instalments and when part of the work is completed, the next instalment is released. So it is not that funds have been released and no work has been done. I think, this notion should be dispelled. They are released in relation to the stages of progress. All the tannery units are required to obtain consent to operate from the State Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Board monitor the progress that they are making and see whether they are setting up adequate effluent treatment plants or not. So far, 862 units had applied for consent and the Tamil Nadu State Pollution Control Board has issued consent to 724 units. 47 units have set up their own common effluent treatment plants. The remaining tannery units are being taken up under the CETP scheme. The scheme is being taken up in 18 different locations in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI T. A. MOHAMMED SAQHY: My second supplementary is...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you cannot put a second supplementary. Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, I have gone through the statement of the hon. Minister. My supplementary is very specific. I would like to know whether in view of the new Industrial Policy and the delicensing of major industries, environmental guidelines will suffer especially where tanneries are concerned. The Minister has talked about the effluent treatment plants and the help being given for small tanneries to set up effluent treatment plants. I would like to know whether according to the Environment Protection Act, it will be compulsory for a new industry to set up pollution control equipment before they open; whether the State Pollution Control Board can refuse permission if they do not open it and whether site clearance will be necessary. Part C of my question is, whether the State Pollution Control Boards have the authority to shut down the violators, say, if the tanneries in the State violate the conditions, and whether the public can go before the Board and complain so that the Board have the power to shut down any offending, violating tannery. As far as I know, now they don't have that power.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, through you, I would like to assure the hon. Member that while the Industrial Policy has been liberalised, environmen-

tal considerations have not been liberalised and there is no proposal to liberalise any environmental conditions. With a liberalised Industrial Policy, there is a notification, which has been issued by my Ministry on 29th of January under the Environment Protection Act. This is the first part of the notification. The preliminary notification has been issued which makes it mandatory to get site clearance for all the new industrial units to be set up. Tannery has been specified in this as one of the industries requiring clearance. The threshold limit has been set. The threshold limit is that below 5,000 skins per day, the site approval shall be given by the State Pollution Control Board and above that, the approval shall be given by the Central Government.

About the other part of the question whether the State Pollution Control Boards have power to stop the unit, there are adequate powers available both with the State Pollution Control Boards and the Central Pollution Control Board, under the Environment Protection Act, to take steps for closure of an industry violating the standards set.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Sir, the hon. Minister has just now informed the House that to help small tanneries, they would be made to form cluster of tanneries and therefore, they can be allotted subsidies on an appropriate scale for setting up the effluent treatment plants. I would like to know what the estimate about the effluent treatment plan is for a small cluster. Sir, he has given the bracket of 30 per cent by the Central subsidy, 30 per cent by the State subsidy and 40 per cent loan by the bank. What is the amount as far as quantum is concerned, not the percentage? What is the amount that an effluent treatment plan is going to cost for even each a small cluster? Otherwise they would be liable to close down or the pollution would continue and you won't be able to do anything. Please enlighten us on these points.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, as I have mentioned earlier, there is a scheme...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know the cost involved; whether 40 per cent can be paid by those people. That is your question. Isn't it?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, the scheme is, at the moment 20 per cent by the Central Government, 20 per cent by the State Government as a grant; this is a subsidy in itself and the banks and financial institutions give a soft loan, a loan bearing an interest rate of roughly 15.9 per cent which is much less than the market rate of loans and the promoters contribution is 20 per cent. The ceiling for the grant is Rs. 50 lakhs and the cost...

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Is it for a small cluster or for one effluent treatment plant?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The ceiling is 20 per cent or Rs. 50 lakhs...

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Are you saying the total amount of Rs. 50 lakhs of the grant for a cluster...

MR. CHAIRMAN: 20 per cent or Rs. 50 lakhs you can find it out....

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: I want to know whether it is the ceiling of Rs. 50 lakhs for subsidy or it is the ceiling on the cost of the effluent treatment plant.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It depends upon how large the plant is.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Sir, how can there be a ceiling on the plant cost? The ceiling is of the 20 per cent grant given by the Central Government which is Rs. 50 lakhs. So it is 20 per cent or Rs. 50 lakhs whichever is lower.

SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Sir, this is a long-standing problem which has not been solved in Tamil Nadu. We are getting more foreign exchange earnings from these small tanneries. Will the Government of India take it up with the State Pollution Control Board which has already formulated a new scheme with a new technology, at less cost because small scale tanneries's financial inability is a problem in setting up effluent treatment plants? Will the Government of India formulate new technology to help the small tanneries, increasing the subsidy as suggested by the State Pollution Control Board?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, I entirely agree with the Member that these tanneries are earning us a lot of foreign exchange and we have been in dialogue with the State Pollution Control Board. I myself visited Tamil Nadu and I have been assessing the work being done by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board. We are in constant interaction. I have held meetings with the Ministers concerned and we shall certainly consider any scheme which is economically viable and environmentally friendly which the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board gives us. And if it meant financing, if it means modifying the existing scheme, we shall certainly consider this in the light of the importance of tanneries, both from the foreign exchange element point of view and from employment point of view.

"बरगी डाइवर्शन दांयी नहर"

*†303. **श्री अजीत जोगी :**
श्री बेकल "उत्साही" :

क्या **पर्यावरण और वन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मध्य प्रदेश में बरगी डाइवर्शन दांयी नहर के निर्माण का प्रस्ताव वन संरक्षण अधिनियम, 1980 के अंतर्गत स्वीकृति के लिए पड़ा हुआ है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसे कब तक स्वीकृत दिए जाने की संभावना है ; और

(ग) क्या सरकार परियोजनाओं को लागू करने में विलम्ब को रोकने के लिए वर्तमान पर्यावरण नीति में संशोधन करके नहर निर्माण, सड़क निर्माण और पारेषण लाइनों के निर्माण कार्यों को स्वीकृति दिए जाने हेतु शक्तियों का प्रत्यायोजन करने का विचार रखती है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Government is yet to furnish material information required for the disposal of the proposal. On receipt of the details, the case will be processed expeditiously.

(c) While no sanction is required to be issued by this Ministry for construction of canals, roads etc. it has been decided to delegate further powers to the Regional CCFs of this Ministry for granting clearance for such projects under the Forests (Conservation) Act.

श्री अजीत जोगी : सभापति महोदय, 566 करोड़ की बरगी बहुद्देश्यीय परियोजना मध्य प्रदेश की एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण परियोजना है जिससे सिंचाई भी होगी, विद्युत का उत्पादन भी होगा और मध्य प्रदेश का जो मध्यक्षेत्र है—जबलपुर के आसपास कटनी, सतना तक उसको भी इसका लाभ मिलेगा । सभापति महोदय, इस परियोजना का अनुमोदन सितंबर, 1989 में सी०डब्ल्यू०सी० और एडवायजरी बोर्ड ने किया था और उसमें यह शर्त लगाई गई थी कि पर्यावरण की अनापत्ति भी प्राप्त कर ली जावे । तब से अब तक तीन वर्ष व्यतीत हो गए हैं और पर्यावरण की अनापत्ति इस परियोजना के लिए प्राप्त नहीं हो सकी है । मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि यह पर्यावरण की अनापत्ति प्राप्त होने के लिए

†सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री अजीत जोगी द्वारा पूछा गया ।